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Coming out of his shell

by Minibean

Summary

A young tactician has caught the eye of Shulk. But is he too fragile to last and will Shulk be able to help him forget his past?

Notes

See the end of the work for notes

As Shulk turned, he noticed him there. He was like a child, waddling behind his sister. He and Ada both joined at the same time but he had not left his room since that first day. Ada would often be seen taking food upstairs with her. She had clearly convinced the young man to leave his room and meet the new friends she had made. Each time she would walk up to a player, introduce her sibling, he would say hello and they would move on. They were making quick work of the room and would soon reach Shulk. Shulk did not just want to say hello though. He was intrigued by this mystery man, he wanted to not only know his name, but also why he was intent on not meeting anyone until today.
"Hi Shulk!" Ada had made her way toward him while he was thinking of what to say." Oh, hello Ada, nice to see you. I presume you're here to introduce your friend."You can read me like a book, but this is not my friend, this is my younger brother, Robin." The younger sibling could be seen leaning out slightly."Pleased to make your acquaintance Robin, my name is Shulk." Shulk reached out to shake Robins hand but Robin quickly pulled away. He seemed somewhat wary of human contact. Even as he spoke he had a nervous stutter, as if he had not talked to anyone in a long time. "H-h-hello th-there." His voice was soft and quiet. Ada seemed ready to move on but Shulk was not as he sat up straight in his chair. "Please Robin, tell me about yourself." Robin was shaking as he was trying to think of anything to say. "I-I u-umm I-I mean t-to say is th-that I ummm-" Ada noticed her sibling was uncomfortable and wasn't going to let him feel that way."Robin." Her sibling peaked his head at her. "You can go back to the room if you want, i'm

going to talk to Shulk for a little longer if you don't mind." Robin quickly nodded his head in agreement and shuffled out of the room and toward the hall that led to the staircase. After Ada was sure he had left, she began to explain to Shulk. "I'm sorry about him, it's my fault, I just wanted him to talk to people other than me." Shulk was confused. Had Robin really had no human contact other than with his sister for such a long time. "No Ada, it was me who was at fault, I made him uncomfortable with my interrogation habits. Perhaps you could speak for him?" Ada was surprised by Shulk's interest but saw no issue with slight explanation."He wasn't always like this. He used to be funny, talkative, even sociable. He hated not leaving the house. Then someone came along and beat the brother I loved out of him. Now he doesn't do anything." Shulk felt sorry for Robin. "Did you say **beat** the brother you loved away? Was this person abusive?" Shulk was shocked. "Y-yes, he was. He threatened to hurt people if Robin left him but by staying with him, Robin was the one being hurt. Physically and emotionally. Luckily I figured something was up and..... lets just say I finished the problem but the physical and mental scars are still there. Possibly forever. I'm the only one he trusts now and also the only one he would talk to, but, today he made an effort with you. That's the most he has said to anyone other than me in a long time. I think it would be good for you to continue talking to him. You made real progress on bringing him out of his shell today." Shulk was horrified that a person could do such a thing, but at the same time confused as to why Robin attempted opening up to him. "I agree, I think maybe I could help. I cannot guarantee anything but I can try." Ada was overjoyed. "Thank you so much Shulk. I really appreciate it. Just.....be careful with my baby brother. He's fragile and I don't want anything to happen to him. Also, under any circumstances, do not ask him why he wears long sleeve clothing in the summer. I know its weird but if the answer is not obvious, asking him will make him overly upset and I wont see him for two weeks afterwards. It happened before and I nearly had a heart attack from worry." Ada had made her warning clear and besides, Shulk knew the reason why. Those scars last.

Three weeks have passed and Shulk has done wonders on Robin. He can now have a full conversation, albeit with the nervous stuttering and Robin seems to enjoy these conversations greatly as Robin would always be in a good mood with Ada the rest of the day. Shulk even wondered about taking him to get some lunch with him and Ada. Robin wasn't quite ready for public though. Shulk was sure today would be the day Robin became ready. He knocked on the door of the room the siblings shared with a familiar knock Robin had come to recognize. Robin answered the door. He was much shorter than Shulk, despite being the same age, and as such had to look upwards to speak with him. Shulk had become accustomed to Robins wide eyes staring up at him, he had the eyes of a young child staring up at their parent. Robin spoke first "O-oh hello Shulk do c-come in." Shulk stepped in side the room and looked around. There were posters and shelves and magazines on Ada's side of the room but looking towards Robins side it was rather bare, surrounded by piles upon piles of books. It was clear what Robin did in his spare time. He and Shulk shared a common hobby of research and would sometimes compare notes. "Robin, you have made real progress these few weeks and I thought you might be ready to go and get lunch somewhere with me and Ada." The thought clearly panicked the younger tactician. "Wh-what!? Y-you mean ou-out th-there!?" The nervous stutter was getting worse as Robin began to worry. "Yes Robin. Me and Ada will both be there and I think you are ready for something like that." Robin looked down, as if he was disappointed with himself. "W-well it has been s-so long since I-I went out s-somewhere." The stuttering had calmed down as Robin did. It did not fully subside though that was to be expected. "See! I knew you'd agree! You are going to be fine, okay?" Shulk bent over slightly and smiled. "You really needn't be disappointed with yourself for not being very

willing. Your scars, they take a lot of work to heal. I just hope someday I can meet the person that was lost from within you. The tactician was holding back tears. He knew that he should be able to do these things but he couldn't. It upset him that he knew he was better. "Y-you kn-know what h-happened to me? H-how much d-did Ada tell y-you?" Shulk assumed Robin knew about Ada telling him a brief summary of his past. "Not much but, enough. No details other than it was.....abusive." Robin started crying quietly as memories came back to him rapidly. He hadn't forgotten, but he had tried to suppress these. Shulk pulled Robin in for a hug and Robin continued softly crying into Shulk's chest. Even when crying, Robin couldn't be anything other than fragile and gentle. Shulk ran his hand through Robins hair slowly. Holding Robin was like holding an artifact, he truly was incredibly easy to break apart. He needed to be protected and Shulk was going to do do so. This shy person, cring against his torso in his arms, would never be hurt again. Shulk really admired Robin's soaked face. He looked adorable when he was sad. Shulk could hug him forever. Now about admitting his crush.....

End Notes

Hi! My name is Minibean and I am new! Ummmmmmmmmmm I wanted to do this for a long time , so I decided none of you know me in real life so what is the risk of anyone I know getting their hands on this. Essentially I wanted to make a story for a long time and yesterday it dawned on me that Shulk did not have to be the quiet one and Robin didn't have to "wear the pants" as it were and so this kind of immediately came to mind.
ONTO THE ACTUAL NOTES! XD
1)Robin previous relationship MAY be fleshed out. I haven't decided on whether or not leaving Robins scars from that time implied or to directly state his entire relationship as a separate fic.
2)Ada is about 3 years older than Robin and is an alteration of the female avatar. Ada happens to be the name of my avatar and she also happens to be married to Kellam. To be exact my avatar has the default build with the default hair in the color brown with the face that has the kind of headdress thingy. Just in case you wanted to know! The reason Robin is the default avatar is because my male avatars on my game are either me or my brother soooooooooooooooooo.
3)I really hope my first attempt was decent I worked really hard on it and tips or guidance in the comments are appreciated.
4) I know that there are quite a few notes but I did just want to recommend a fic called "Heart to S support" it is literally my favorite piece of work on this site , go tell the author Minibean sent you!

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!